

Application No.: 09/628,880
Filed: July 31, 2000
TC Art Unit: 2151
Confirmation No.: 4970

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is filed in response to the official action dated May 2, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-30 are currently pending.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected.

Claims 1-5, 8-17, and 20-27 have been amended.

Claims 31-61 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nielsen (USP 5,907,680). The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that amended base claims 1, 13, and 25-27 and the claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by the art of record, and therefore the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

For example, base claim 1, as amended, recites a method of enabling information associations, performed in conjunction with at least one client system and at least one server system, that includes (1) parsing, on the client system or the server system, data contained within a document to identify a number of objects included in the document, (2) accessing, from at least one database, information related to those objects in the document for

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which related information is available, (3) displaying, on a display of the client system, at least a portion of those objects for which related information is available, (4) detecting, on the client system, a selection of one of the objects displayed on the display by a user, and (5) displaying, on the display, information from the database related to the selected object. Such a method of enabling information associations is described throughout the instant application, for example, see page 4, lines 3-27, page 7, lines 8-10, page 8, line 23, to page 9, line 16, page 16, lines 2-5, page 27, lines 18-20, page 34, lines 11-17, and page 40, lines 7-14, of the application.

The official action indicates that the Nielsen reference discloses the step of parsing a document including a number of objects (i.e., sending a request for a particular "www" document). For example, the Nielsen reference, which relates to spell-checking of resource identifications in a network environment, teaches manually entering a uniform resource locator (URL) on a browser, and, if the browser receives a "Server Not Found" error, then performing, on a client-side component, a spelling check on the protocol and the domain-name portion of the URL, creating a list of potentially valid URLs, and displaying the list in hypertext format. A user can then select one of the URLs

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displayed in the list (see column 5, line 66, to column 6, line 41, of Nielsen).

The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the Nielsen reference neither teaches nor suggests parsing, on a client system or a server system, data contained within a document to identify a number of objects included in the document, as recited in amended base claim 1. As described in the instant application, such objects included in a document may consist of words, phrases, graphics, or other display objects (see page 8, lines 28-29, of the application). The Applicants respectfully submit that merely sending a request for a particular "www" document, as taught by Nielsen, is not suggestive of parsing data contained within a document to identify a number of objects included in the document, as recited in amended claim 1. In fact, it would not be logical to include such a request for a particular "www" document as an object within the document, as recited in amended claim 1.

More specifically, the Nielsen reference teaches creating a list of potentially valid URLs. As taught by Nielsen, the list includes one or more alternative spellings of the URL manually entered by the user (see column 2, lines 64-65, of Nielsen). The Applicants respectfully point out, however, that the list of potentially valid URLs, i.e., the list of alternative URL

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spellings, is not a list of objects included within the document, as recited in amended base claim 1. Not only would it be illogical to include a request for a particular "www" document as an object within the document, but it would also be illogical to include alternative spellings of the URL for that document as objects within the document, as recited in amended claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Nielsen reference contains no hint of including alternative spellings of a document URL as objects within the document.

As described in the instant application, the claimed system and method of enabling information associations operates by parsing a number of objects (e.g., words, phrases, graphics, or other display objects) contained within a document such as a web page downloadable by a browser program running on a client system, and using the parsed objects to form a list of "meta-links" (or "meta-link objects") within the document for which related information may be available. For example, the list of meta-link objects may be formed by generating a unique object list for the document, and forwarding that list to a metadata server, which may respond with a list of those objects that are associated with related information. In this way, the claimed system and method can empower a user to pursue related or tangential interests while

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"surfing" through various web pages. For example, instead of forcing the user to choose from a small subset of the words or phrases within a document that happen to be conventionally "linkable" objects, the claimed system potentially makes virtually every object on a web page linkable by associating every object with related "metadata" (see page 4, lines 8-19, and page 6, line 27, to page 7, line 2, of the application). Clearly, an apparatus that merely provides a user with a list of alternative URL spellings, as disclosed by Nielsen, would not provide that user with the benefit of empowering him/her to pursue related or tangential interests while surfing the web, as described in the instant application.

Because the Nielsen reference neither teaches nor suggests the step of parsing data contained within a document to identify a number of objects included within the document, as recited in amended base claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Nielsen reference does not anticipate amended claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

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For at least the reasons discussed above with reference to amended base claim 1, the Applicants further submit that amended base claims 13 and 25-27 and the claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by the Nielsen reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 13-27 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

The Applicants have added claims 31-61 to recite further embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 31-61 recite non-obvious subject matter that distinguishes over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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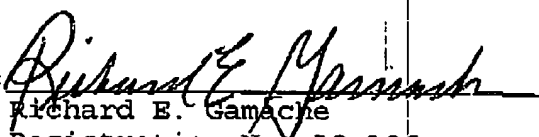
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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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